(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Doubling of Indo-US trade

168. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether to improve Indo-US relation further, both the countries have agreed to double the trade from the existing $ 20 bn in 2005 to $40 bn in 2008;

(b) if so, whether the US has decided to place an official of Federal Aviation to promote civil aviation, a fulltime Intellectual Property Right (IPR) official for promoting pharma research and a fulltime official from the Treasury Department to work with the RBI for helping and building a deeper financial market with India; and

(c) if so, to what extent these steps have helped India to increase trade with US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) In the India-US Trade Policy Meeting held in November 2005 in New Delhi, co-chaired by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Kamal Nath and the then United States Trade Representative (USTR) Mr. Rob Portman, both sides agreed that India and US will aim at doubling bilateral trade to at least US $ 40 bn by 2008.

(b) and (c) The US Department of State is known to have created these new posts in India and there are reports that they will be filled up soon.

Processing units by Tea Board

169. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tea Board has decided to set up processing units in Assam to benefit small tea growers for better price;

(b) if so, whether such units are being set up in other tea growing States/places besides Assam;

(c) if so, which are those States/places; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to grant land ownership rights to small tea growers, which would enable them to get bank finance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No Sir. Processing units are set up by plantation owners/entrepreneurs themselves

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Government of Assam has been requested to make necessary arrangements for regularisation of the ownership of the lands where tea cultivation has already been taken up by the small growers.

Proposals under IIUS in A.P.

170. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted some proposals for approval under Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposals for an artificial jewellery cluster in Machilipatnam of Krishana district and aquaculture cluster in Bhimvaram-Vishakhapatnam Zone have been rejected, without any valid reasons; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Proposals for aqua culture cluster Bhimvaram-Vishakhapatnam Zone and artificial jewellery cluster in Machilipatnam of Krishana district were not found in conformity with the parameters of the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme and therefore, could not be considered for sanction.